



The College of Graduate Studies and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

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Entitled

*Modern Standard Arabic through Particles
Correcting and Erring Revisions and Approaches to Interpretation*

by

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Abstract

Contemporary eloquent Arabic is passing through an evolution in usage, and this is an inevitable issue in every language inherent in a society affiliated with specific interests and contexts. This argument may be accepted and assimilated by one group of scholars or denied and rejected by another. In both cases, it is worth investigating and studying. On this basis, this dissertation aims to identify the manifestations of development in the particles as an essential part of the Arabic language, especially because contemporary eloquent Arabic is described as written language, and writing is a communication channel in which particles are actively operating. Arabic language writing has achieved growth in its form and style since the Renaissance era and this growth has been accompanied by a critical linguistic movement, which lasted to this day. This linguistic movement attempted to evaluate the general linguistic landscape and correct potential errors. The particles were subjected to this critical movement, especially their connections with the allegations of linguistic critics about styles as linguistic materials borrowed from foreign languages. In light of this language scene, which is caught up between usage and linguistic criticism, this dissertation attempts to answer three questions: How the use of particles is an evidence of the linguistic development in contemporary eloquent Arabic? And how researchers approach this issue, particularly with regard to the phenomenon of pursuing correct and incorrect components in language use? What are the proposed linguistic approaches to elucidate this development?

For this purpose, this dissertation is contingent upon a multi-topical blog from which it draws its corpus, namely: pages of the network (the Internet), narrative writings (fiction in particular), academic books, and finally peer-reviewed academic articles in the Journal of Contemporary Arab Thought/ Majalaat Alfikr Al-Arabi Almuacer and Fusul Journal/ Majalaat. The time period of the collected data has extended from the mid-eighties to the present day. The purpose of this blog was to identify the growing usage among users who were supposed to use the language correctly. The dissertation falls into three chapters. It is preceded by entries to the central elements in the title, which are the particles and the connections of the terms to the letters and other interrelated approaches, as well as issues associated with contemporary eloquent Arabic and related concepts. Consequently, the introduction comes under the title "Particles in Contemporary Eloquent Arabic: Knowledge Antiquities". As for the first chapter, it bears the title "Particles between the premise of right and wrong and the concept of linguistic development: perspectives and applications." This chapter is a study of a number of models and categories in the light of the argument of linguistic development. The chapter deals with this phenomenon from different points of view.

The title of the second chapter is "Linguistic Development in Particles: Historical Perspective." The argument in this chapter links particles with styles, and scrutinizes what has settled in usage from a historical standpoint to reveal the norms of development in language, including the dialectic of communication and dis-communication between the used and the memorized. The third chapter, entitled "The Structure of Particles and the Patterns of their Inclusion: A Study of Linguistic Development from Cognitive Grammatical Perspective," is a study of use through the cognitive relationship that proceeds from what is going on in the mind and is reflected in the language, in which cognitive tools, such as categorization, continuum and grammaticalization, emerge to carry out the task of interpretation. The dissertation concludes that Modern Standard Arabic is a form related to Standard Arabic Language, but its communicative ground is different, and what is meant here is writing. Writing has played a major role in multiplying the particles, considering the structure as the focus of attention in modern writing, not the articulated word itself. It also reaches the conclusion that it is necessary to scrutinize what settles in use from a linguistic and academic view in light of the explanatory particles provided by the linguistic development argument. As long as the language is used, it eventually develops, and this fact does not contradict the criterion. Instead it infuses the criterion with an active spirit capable of capturing any development.

Keywords: contemporary Arabic, particles, linguistic development, correctness and erring, historical approach, cognitive approach.